

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 DODE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RBRESLER DOD/OSD/ISA:JMULLEN:SE

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PM:TSTERN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANARIVE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLANT NORVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071793

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, PFOR, PINS, MA, US

SUBJECT:MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS - PRICE AND
AVAILABILITY

REFS: A. TANANARIVE 0431

- B. TANANARIVE 0430

1. PRICES AND DELIVERY AVAILABILITY OF SMALL ARMS AND
RELATED AMMUNITION LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTEL A CAN BE
PROVIDED BUT WE NEED TO KNOW SPECIFIC QUANTITIES AND TYPES
(CALIBERS OR MODELS OF WEAPONS DESIRED, TYPES/SIZES OF
AMMUNITION, ETC.) AS MINIMUM BASIS FOR DEPENDABLE ESTIMATES.
SOME INDICATION OF GOMR'S DELIVERY NEEDS WOULD ALSO BE HELP-
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FUL. REQUEST POST FORWARD THIS INFO ASAP.

2. IN ADDITION, IF SOME AMMUNITION REQUIREMENTS RELATE TO SPECIFIC WEAPONS ON HAND, THE QUANTITIES, CALIBERS AND SPECIFIC MODELS AND SOURCES OF THOSE WEAPONS AND ESTIMATED QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION NEEDED ARE ESSENTIAL FOR MEANINGFUL PRICE AND DELIVERY PROJECTIONS.

3. YOU SHOULD INFORM MALAGASY THAT SINCE PRICES ARE SIMILAR AND DELIVERY IS USUALLY CONSIDERABLY FASTER WITH COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN THEIR INTEREST TO

PURCHASE ARMS COMMERCIALY TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. FYI - SECTION I OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT PROVIDES THAT USG "SHALL REDUCE ITS SALES, CREDIT SALES, AND GUARANTEES OF SUCH ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES AS SOON AS, AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT, PRACTICABLE" IN ORDER TO "RETURN SUCH TRANSACTIONS TO COMMERCIAL CHANNELS". END FYI. WE ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS MALAGASY REQUESTS FOR SALE THROUGH FMS OF ARMS NOT AVAILABLE COMMERCIALY.

4. M-16 RIFLES WHICH WOULD SERVE AS BOTH RIFLE AND SUB MACHINE GUN COULD BE PURCHASED COMMERCIALY AT ESTIMATED COST OF DOLS. 190 EACH FROM COLT ARMS (AMMUNITION ABOUT DOLS. 130 PER THOUSAND). SMITH & WESSON COULD PROVIDE .38 SPECIAL REVOLVERS AT ESTIMATED COST OF DOLS. 100 EACH, AMMUNITION AT DOLS. 110 PER CASE OF 1,000 ROUNDS. DELIVERY OF BOTH WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 60-90 DAYS.

5. THERE ARE NO BAZOOKAS OR RELATED AMMUNITION AVAILABLE COMMERCIALY OR THROUGH FMS; HOWEVER, DEPT OF ARMY COULD PROVIDE A LETTER OF OFFER FOR M-72 LAW SELF-CONTAINED LIGHT ANTI-TANK WEAPON THROUGH FMS. HAND GRENADES ARE NOT AVAILABLE COMMERCIALY BUT COULD BE PURCHASED THROUGH FMS AT ABOUT DOLS. 3 EACH.

6. DETAILS AS TO THE SPECIFIC ITEMS AND RATE AT WHICH GOMR WOULD LIKE TO PRODUCE ARE NEEDED FOR A MEANINGFUL STUDY OF BOTH POSSIBILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTION OF
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MUNITIONS FACTORY. MUNITIONS FACTORY WOULD BE HANDLED COMMERCIALY RATHER THAN THROUGH FMS.

7. DC-4 AND CONVAIR 640 AIRCRAFT ARE NOT IN USAF INVENTORY BUT CAN BE PURCHASED COMMERCIALY.

8. IF GOMR WISHES, WE WILL REQUEST COMMERCIAL SOURCES TO DISCUSS WITH MALAGASY EMBASSY HERE POSSIBILITY OF PROVISION

OF M-16 RIFLES, .38 SPECIAL REVOLVERS, MUNITIONS FACTORY,
DC-4 OR CONVAIR 640 THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, AND WILL
PROVIDE SUCH GENERAL GUIDANCE TO EMBASSY AS MAY BE APPRO-
PRIATE AND HELPFUL. PLEASE ADVISE. FYI - MALAGASY
AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INFORMED OF SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 5 AND 6
REF (A). END FYI.

9. RE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISITS WE
THINK IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO RAISE SUBJECT. WE BELIEVE
PROSPECTS FOR POSITIVE MALAGASY RESPONSE WOULD BE ENHANCED
BY PROGRESS WE HOPE TO MAKE ON MALAGASY ARMS REQUESTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE071793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RBRESLER DOD/OSD/ISA:JMULLEN:SE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750111-0424
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975032/aaaaabbt.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TANANARIVE 0431
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS - PRICE AND AVAILABILITY
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PINS, MA, US
To: TANANARIVE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006